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MR. MOLDEN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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From the Farmer's Cabinet.

DETERIORATION OF GRAIN.

Complain of not seeing such your own negligence produces.
The writer, after alluding to the opinion of one, who recommends a frequent change of seed, it should only be from the farm of his nearest neighbor, remarks:
I think it would be difficult to show that benefit would be derived simply from changing of seed unless you obtained a kind that was superior to what was previously possessed; and in relation to the difference of soil, it might or might not be advantageous, for the chances would be equal either way, unless experience had indicated that a removal from a particular soil to that of another given kind was attended with favorable results; for it is far from certain that any random shot exchange would be beneficial in any case whatever. The injunction to select "only that which is of the best quality," is good advice and should be pertinaciously adhered to in all cases whatever; but that result should be had to any "neighboring farm," or "if imported, so much the better, is not quite so clear. The venerable Joseph Cooper, late of Camden, N. Jersey, was successful a cultivator of our country furnished an example of the survival to a great age, and he commenced a series of experiments at an early period of life, founded on rational principles, which led to most unexampled success in his agricultural and horticultural operations. The results of his experience, with the principles on which they were founded, were published in the agricultural societies' transactions, and in the almanacs and newspapers of the day under his signature; and it is believed, no instance can be produced where the plans suggested by him have been carefully carried out, but what the same beneficial results have been witnessed. He was not a believer in "dear bought, and far fetched;" but he resorted to his own grainfield when the grain was beginning to ripen, and passing through it he carefully selected such heads as appeared to him to be superior to the rest; these he reserved to raise his seed from, and in this way in the course of three years, he would propagate sufficient to seed his field; and he constantly persevered in this mode of selection of seeds of every kind for his own planting and sowing. The celebrated "Cooper corn" was annually selected on this principle, and continues to preserve its well earned reputation, on the farm where the selection was first made, and in its neighborhood, although it is now nearly seventy years since he first commenced the planting of it, and it has been carefully preserved from admixture with other varieties. The writer of this, procured seed-corn of him more than thirty years ago, and having with in the present week examined some of the ears of the Cooper corn raised at Camden, they do not appear to have undergone any deterioration or change.

The principle adopted by J. Cooper in selecting his grain and corn, he carried out to its fullest extent with his garden seeds, preserving those only of the best and finest specimens that ripened earliest for seed; and he never found it necessary to change his seed to prevent its "running out;" for he kept the stream constantly running the other way by judicious selection from his own stock. But although he never changed his seed, others did, for those who were careless and negligent, were annually resorting to him to purchase a fresh supply of his superior selections of seed and grain.

AGRICOLA.

DWARF FRUIT TREES.

In some places, especially in France, a method prevails of cultivating dwarf fruit trees. These are said by English and French writers, to have many advantages. The trees are not as much exposed to high winds, the produce better fruit, bear earlier, and more abundantly.
Dwarf trees are produced by inoculating on stocks of comparatively slow growth. — T. us by inoculating the apple on the Paradise or Douis stock, the peach on a slow growing plum stock, and the pear on the quince stock, &c. This is practised here,

more particularly, in gardens where the trees are set along the borders, alternating with gooseberries or currant bushes.

The pruning and management of dwarf apples and pear trees are well described in the following remarks.

The first subjects of the following remarks, from their appearance, were planted six or seven years previously to the commencement of any pruning being given to them. In consequence they required to be very much thinned out, so as to get the branches clear of each other. Forthwith I always bore in mind to cut the old wood off close to the stem or branch it was attached to; this prevented young wood springing afterwards. When the trees were thinned of the old shoots, as above stated the young side shoots were what is generally termed spurred in; that is, they were so short and stout, that only two or three were left on them, and the leading top shoots were shortened to half their length.

The following and every succeeding year, the trees were treated in the same manner, as respects the young wood, till they had acquired the desired height, when the leading shoots were shortened, as the side-shoots or spurs had been previously. When the leading shoots show an indication to grow very luxuriantly, which is apt to be the case under his treatment, they should be prevented doing so, by cutting off part of the old wood, along with the young shoots immediately above a flower bud. This will prevent the shoot or so cut from increasing in length. The spurs must be treated in a similar manner, by cutting off a small portion of the old wood along with the young, when they are getting too long.

I have never found the above treatment prevent fruit swelling, or in any way detrimental to it; but on the contrary, it was always improved.

Young trees are to be treated in the following manner; if there are more than three shoots on the plant reduce them to the number, and shorten each to three, four, and six eyes, according to their strength. The following season reduce the number of leading shoots to six, and shorten them to three-fourths of their length, and spur in the remaining shoots. The tree should be managed in every respect in this manner until it has attained the required size, which of course depends on the convenience or fancy of the owner, or conductor of the garden.

I make a point of letting the trees take their natural form of growth as far as the system described will permit; for I consider it of little consequence what shape is given to the tree, provided my end is attained; that is, to make every branch as it were a long spur, with bearing buds from the base to its extremity.

Two or three years' trial of this method only, might possibly deprive many from a continuance of it, in consequence of the quantity of young wood which will be produced yearly at first, and from the apparent difficulty of getting rid of the superfluity. But that inconvenience will be ultimately succeeded by the foregoing instructions are attended to, and the continuance will be the possession of both healthy and fruitful trees. To attempt to bring very old trees into this method of management would be attended with difficulty, unless they were cut down short and allowed to make new heads, which I should recommend where their produce can be spared for a time. In a few years fine healthy heads would be formed, which will yield fruit superior to any that could be expected from them if left in their rude state. But if the trees cannot be spared to be headed down, they may be very much improved by thinning out the spray, and cutting out a few old branches, which will cause them to throw out young shoots, and these in a short time, will become bearing wood. The remainder of the old branches may then be thinned out with effect. Even if this process is only performed once in two or three years, and the stems and dead bark, it will be of great service to the trees, and be a means of keeping them free from insects, and giving them a neat and clean appearance.

[Practical Farmer.]

From the American Farmer.

DIFFERENT MODES OF PRESERVING AND PREPARING TOMATOES FOR THE TABLE.

Canonsburg, August 16th, 1839.

Mr. J. S. Skinner—As the season of tomatoes is at hand, I will send a few recipes for preserving them for winter use.

Take tomatoes, say half a peck, when ripe, but not too soft, skin them and cut them in two, leaving the seeds or not as you like; lay them on a dish, (I do not wash them; then take two quarts of strong vinegar, put one table-spoonful of all-spice, the same of powdered ginger, the same of salt, half a table-spoonful good Cayenne pepper; put all (except the tomatoes) in the vinegar; boil it in a very clean brass or bell metal kettle for about half an hour—then strain it through a sieve, put it again on a slow fire, and when it begins to boil, put in some of the tomatoes, but do not crowd them. When they look clear, take them out carefully with a skimmer, and lay them on a dish; do so until you have them all done, and when cold, put them in a glass or white earthen jar, with the vinegar in which they were boiled. Dip writing paper in brandy or strong vinegar, and put over them; cover them tight, and put in a cool place. It is excellent with fresh, or any other kind of meat.

Another—Take tomatoes when ripe, skin them, cut them in two, lay them on large dishes, put them in the sun to

dry, turn them often, and when sufficiently dried in the sun, put them in a dry place. They should be exposed to the sun after a damp spell of weather. When stewed or cooked in any way, they are almost as good as when first taken from the vines.

Another and easy mode of keeping tomatoes.—Make a strong pickle of salt and water that will bear an egg, make it cold, strain it into a crock, or small keg; take ripe tomatoes, filling crock or keg, pour the pickle on them, and cover it with a thin scope to keep them under the pickle. In the winter when you want some for use, put them in cold water the night before and in the morning change the water until they are as fresh as you want them. Then cook them, or eat them raw with vinegar, pepper and salt.

A cheap and excellent dish.—Take cold cooked meat of any kind, chop it fine, season with salt, pepper, and a little butter and spice if you like. Then take stale bread, say one-third to two of meat, soak it in milk or water, taking care not to make it too wet; then take four or six large ripe tomatoes, skin them, chop them fine, put them with the meat and bread, mix them well together, put in a deep dish, and bake it in a slow oven on a stove, for one hour; eat with gravy or not as you like.

Another.—Take cold cooked meat, chop fine, is not fat; boil some potatoes, mash them, put one-third to two of the meat, mix well together in a deep dish, bake slow three-quarters of an hour.

In your large cities there is a great deal of provision thrown away by cooks that might be made into wholesome and palatable dishes I have made. If housewives would look more in a their larders, they might save their husbands some dollars in the course of the year. As this hint comes from an old lady, I hope my fair countrywomen will not take it amiss, but profit thereby; and to make up, I will give another recipe.

To preserve tomatoes in sugar, take them when ripe, but not too soft, skin and cut them in two, taking out the seeds; take, for one pound of tomatoes, three-quarters of a pound of sugar, loaf or brown; loaf is best to keep them. First take two fresh lemons, cut them in thin slices, put them in one quart of water, boil them until soft, strain the seeds out, add the sugar, let it boil half an hour slowly, then put in as many tomatoes as not to crowd them. Let them boil until clear, then take them out carefully with a skimmer, lay them on a large dish, then put more in, and boil them the same; do so until all are done. When cold, put them in glass jars. If there is not syrup enough to cover them, make a little more. When all is cold, dip white writing paper in brandy, cover them with it, put double paper over them, to them tight, and keep them in a cool dry place.

I hope that your young housewives will endeavor to be it mothers of invention, and have the credit of making their own recipes and cookery.

If you think the above recipes worthy a corner in the Ladies Department of your useful and valuable periodical, by so placing them you will oblige

E. M. P. DAREY.

Report from the Commissioner of Patents showing the operations of his Office during the year 1839.

JANUARY 24, 1840.—Referred to the Committee on Patents and the Patent Office, and ordered to be printed.

Patent Office, January 1, 1840.

SIR—The Commissioner of Patents has the honor to transmit his annual report.

Four hundred and twenty-five patents have been issued during 1839, (including eight additional improvements to former patents), of which classified and alphabetical lists are annexed, marked A and B.

During the same period, three hundred and three patents have expired, as per list marked C.

The receipts of office for 1839 amount to \$37,280, from which may be deducted \$5,769, paid on applications withdrawn. The ordinary expenses of the Patent Office the past year, including payments for the library and agricultural statistics, were \$20,799 95, leaving a surplus of \$11,450 43 to be credited to the patent fund, as per statement marked E.

For the execution of models, records, and drawings, under the act of 31 March, 1837, \$7,973 57 have been expended, as per statement marked F.

The receipts of the Office would have been nearly \$3,000 more, had not the late law permitted assignments to be recorded without charge, a security however, which has given much satisfaction.

In compliance with the act of 31 March, 1839, I have published a digest of all patents granted by the United States, adding thereto an alphabetical index, and shall deposit in the library of Congress nine hundred copies of the same.

The old digest was very defective. A new arrangement has been made, giving to each invention its appropriate classification. A distribution of the new digest, will materially lessen the correspondence of the office, and guard citizens against the impositions of vendors of spurious patents. The volume contains above seven hundred and fifty pages.

The work was deemed necessary for daily reference in the office, and believing the appropriation adequate to cover the expenses, I did not delay the publication.

A small additional appropriation from the patent fund will be required to complete payment for the same.

Eleven thousand five hundred and nine patents have been issued by the United States previous to January 1840.

A large number of applications partially completed are awaiting the reception of models and treasury fee.

The transmission of models through agents appointed by law in the several states affords much facility to inventors; and if permission were given to deposit with collectors of public revenue the fees required, such accommodations would obviate one cause of perplexity and delay, and be more especially convenient in consequence of their present agency in forwarding such models.

I am happy to say the patent office building is so far completed as to afford, within a few weeks, the necessary accommodation for the office, and to enable the commission to receive the numerous specimens of American art as contemplated by the act of reorganization, and to carry out the wishes of Congress by collecting and distributing valuable seeds; exhibiting, also, under appropriate classifications, the most important varieties, both exotic and indigenous.

The inquiries propounded by the honorable secretary of state, in making the next census, rendered it necessary for the commission to expend but a small part of the appropriation for procuring agricultural statistics. From data of so high a source, the commissioner can safely predicate future calculations, and hopes to present to Congress such details of domestic products as will be of importance in financial estimates.

The diplomatic corps of the United States residing abroad, have been solicited to aid in procuring valuable seeds, and the officers of the navy, with the approbation of the honorable secretary of that department, have been requested to convey to the patent office, for distribution, such seeds as may be offered. In many cases, no charges will be made for seeds. If small expenses do arise, they can be reimbursed by appropriations from the patent fund, daily accumulating, and consecrated specially to the promotion of the arts and sciences.

The cheerfulness with which the diplomatic corps and the officers of the navy have received the request of this office, justify sanguine anticipations from this new undertaking.

With the additional assistance granted last session, and correspondent exertions on the part of those connected with the bureau, the business in each branch is brought up less delay will, I trust, arise in future applications.

The number of caveats issued in 1839 was two hundred and twenty-five.

The number of applications for patents the same year exceeds eight hundred. One half of these have been rejected on examination. That the investigations of the office have not been conducted without care and attention, may perhaps be inferred from the fact that no appeal has been taken from the decision of the commissioner on these cases. These rejections will show patentees, that they are protected from interference, to a great extent, and the public generally, how much they are guarded against useless or invalid patents.

I only add that a small appropriation will be required to continue present periodicals taken at the office, together with some additional standard works which are needed for daily reference.

Very resp. ally,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY L. ELLSWORTH.

HON. R. M. JOHNSON,
President of the Senate of the United States

From the Southern Cabinet

ACCOUNT OF AN AGRICULTURAL EXCURSION INTO ST. JOHN'S, BERKLEY.

By the Editor.

All of the crops grown in the State are cultivated in the Parish of St. John's Berkley. The lower part embraces the whole of the western branch of Cooper River, and the Northern half of the Eastern branch. On these two branches are some of the finest rice plantations in the State. Of their management, we do not propose to treat at present, but confine our remarks to the crops grown in Middle and Upper St. John's. Of these, the most important is Cotton. The variety grown here is what is known in Commerce as the "Santee," an inferior kind of Sea-Island or Black Seed, which inferiority is in a great measure, if not wholly produced by locality. We say in a great measure, for no one who has witnessed the great improvements made on the Sea Islands in the staple of their cotton, but must be convinced that a similar improvement could be brought about wherever the same variety of cotton is grown. We do not wish to be misunderstood. We do not believe that the fineness of the staple of the Sea-Island cottons could ever be attained, by cotton grown beyond the influence of the sea atmosphere; but we think that the Santee might, by the judicious selection of seed and application of appropriate manures, be grown to as great fineness as the Sea-Island cottons were before the recent great improvements. The reason why we suppose that the Sea-Island cottons can never be successfully rivalled in fineness is, that the peculiar atmosphere in which they are grown, is wanting in this cannot, as far as our experience goes, be in any manner supplied. So great an influence was supposed to be exerted by this atmosphere, that plantations in the interior of the islands and on the main, (although bordering on tide-water) were supposed not capable of producing the finest varieties of cotton. Experiments, however, have

been made, and experience now sanctions the opinion, that the finest cottons can be grown on such, by the judicious application of saline manures, the atmosphere not being so materially changed in its transit as to effect the staple.

Prof. Shepard is now engaged in analyzing the soil of Edisto Island at the request of the Agricultural Society of St. John's Berkley. We view this as a most important step taken towards the advancement of our agriculture, and the Society merit the thanks of the community for it, which we hope to see imitated by all of the Agricultural Societies of the South, especially of this State, and even by individuals. No one with whom we are acquainted, is better able to carry on this nice investigation, than the able Professor, to whom the Agricultural Society of St. John's Berkley have assigned it. The many advantages which would arise from an accurate analysis of our soils, are so obvious, that we scarcely felt warranted in alluding to them. We, however, cannot refrain from mentioning a few. The first is, that having ascertained the component parts of a fertile soil, and the relative proportions of each ingredient, we can by analysing our own discover in what it is deficient, or in what it superabounds, and if practicable, apply the remedies which may bring it nearer the standard we aim at. Again, it will enable us to correct and bring into culture, spots, and in some instances acres which, at present are wholly unproductive, when cultivated in particular crops. For instance—

It is well known that in many fields, both on the islands and main, there are spots which produce what is called the "Blue cotton," which yields nothing. Other spots are subject to the "rust,"—as soon as these are analyzed, and compared with fertile soils, their excess or deficiency, in any particular ingredient, will at once be detected, and the remedy applied. The analysis, therefore of the first quality of Sea-Island cotton lands will at once establish a standard, by which all on which are grown the same varieties of cotton can be judged. The same benefit will result from analysing the soils in which other crops are cultivated. But will the analysis of the soils of Edisto Island benefit our friends of St. John's Berkley, or elsewhere?—much, for they will, by it, become acquainted with the component parts of the best soils for growing Sea-Island cottons in, and by analysing their own, they can at once ascertain the difference, and how near, by admixtures, or application of manures, they can approximate. But to return to the culture of cotton in St. John's Berkley.

The soil of the Middle St. John's is a light loam, while that of Upper St. John's is so light, that it may almost be termed sandy. It is seldom that a field selected for cotton in this Parish, is cultivated in any other crop. The selection being generally made on account of the supposed adaptation of the soil to this particular plant, or the locality of the field. Small fields are sometimes alternated, but the large, scarce ever. All of the crops, however, (cotton, corn, and potatoes) are planted in lands 4 feet apart, so that whenever any change is made in the culture of a field, the labor of preparation is not increased, by having to level down and re-form new beds at an altered distance. As soon as the crop has been sown, preparation is made for planting, and each planter endeavors to have his fields ready by the 25th of March. Most of the planters adopt the plan of placing the manure under the last, or rather they strew it between the rows, and then form a list which of course mixes the manure, cotton stalks, weeds, grasses, and earth (forming the list) well together. A very small bed is made on this, which is gradually increased in width, (but not height,) at each working. Some, however, prefer to make the bed at once of the size intended, and endeavor to keep it thus throughout the season. The hoe in this and the subsequent operations is the principal instrument used. The plough if used at all, is only employed to break up the alleys. Formerly the "skimmer" was much used, but from some cause which I could not learn, it has been laid aside. From the 20th of March to 1st April, the crop is planted. The holes are not made as formerly, by the hoe, but by what is termed a dibble; made from a 2-1/2 inch plank, 6 inches wide, and tapered to a half inch, at the bottom, whilst the upper part is formed into a handle. Across this, a groove is cut diagonally, into which a lathe or thin piece of board is fixed, which can be readily adjusted to different distances, and is of such length as to touch the ground when the dibble is struck into the bed, and marks the spot where the next hole is to be made. The usual distance is from 20 to 24 inches and it is supposed that two hours is gained by using the dibble in the place of the hoe. The thinning commences at the second working, is continued at the subsequent and completed, by the time the plants are six inches high—one stalk only being left in each hole. Of course each planter endeavors to keep his fields as clear of grass as possible, and hoes as often as he can, which however is seldom more than five times. The crop is usually laid by, from the 20th to the 25th July—but we find that the opinion of some of the best planters, is in favour of laying it by, by the 1st of July, even though it be a little grassy; working it later, they think, increases the growth, and prevents the pods from maturing. In hoeing, some increase the size of their beds gradually, whilst others are careful so to perform this operation that no new surface is exposed, by which they have less grass

to contend with, as nearly all within germinating distance, springs up and is destroyed in the first workings. As soon as from 15 to 20 lbs can be picked, (which is usually by the first week in September,) some hands are sent in; no task is given in picking cotton, though they generally average from 90 to 100 lbs. when the pods are well open. Three of Dr. Ravenel's negroes last fall, picked in September 1838, 140, and 142 lbs. each. The cotton is spread out in the field as it is picked, and the next day on the scaffold. It is then housed, and waited for the gin, when it is passed through the whizzer to free it from dirt, and this operation is repeated as often as it is necessary to clear it of broken seeds. Some of the planters sort and pick their cotton before it passes through the gin, which renders the labour of housing it much less. Generally, however, nothing is done to the cotton until it has been ginned, which operation is mostly done in this Parish by the foot-gin—on some plantations, in conjunction with Farries' gin, worked by horse power, which is considered the best, yet used, and gets out from 250 to 300 lbs. per diem. The average product in this Parish does not exceed 100 lbs. per acre, except when matured; the average on matured land is supposed to 150 lbs. U wards of 250 lbs. have been made on sixty acres.

We have, in the above, given the outline of the culture as practised in this parish, and will notice a few particulars more in detail. We have stated that no rotation is followed, and one of the strongest reasons assigned, (and one not readily to be overruled) is, that the three principal crops (cotton, corn and potatoes) are cultivated in such unequal quantities, that a rotation with these is out of the question, and no other crops at present offer sufficient inducements. But although no rotation at present can be established, yet the crops grown on some of the small fields are at times alternated. It has been found that cotton and corn can be cultivated, by the aid of manure, for an indefinite period, on the same soil, without diminution of product, yet potatoes cannot so matter what quantities of manures may be applied. Corn succeeds, as is well known, admirably after potatoes, but for years, it was believed that cotton could not be successfully grown. This, however, was an error which is now happily corrected. It only requires, as Major Poirer has fully ascertained, that the ground be bedded up, very early, (say in January) so that the beds may consolidate, as the cause of the cotton's dying appears to be connected with the looseness of the soil; the more compact the bed is the better will be the "stand," and the sooner it reaches the hard earth under the bed, the sooner will it grow off. Hence the reason for small beds. This is directly at variance with the practice pursued on the Sea Islands, but of their culture we hope to hear, to give some interesting details, and will not here enter into any comparison.

Many experiments were related to us, going to show that corn and cotton may be grown for years consecutively on the same field, without deterioration or diminution, when proper quantities of manures have been applied. In fact, that old fields have been actually restored to what is supposed to have been their original fertility. Several were mentioned to us, but we do not find the quantities of cotton stated but in three instances one a field at Mexico, (Major Poirer's) which has been cultivated without rest, since 1801, and seldom planted in any other crop than cotton, yielding the last year 176 lbs. per acre. The other is the field of Mr. Thomas W. Poirer, already alluded to, which produced 170 lbs. per acre. Dr. Ravenel's fields, which have been in the culture of cotton for years has also materially improved, the average, the last year, being 150 lbs. per acre. The manure most relied on, and the only one in fact, which has been used in any quantities is the compost, made, as we have already stated, by hauling into the stables, cow, hog and sheep pens, the leaves gathered in the woods, where they remain until spring and are then carted out. Of this, from 250 to 300 bushel basket's full, are considered sufficient for an acre of cotton. Plaster of Paris has been used with decided effect by Mr. H. W. Ravenel and Mr. S. G. Detenue, but unfortunately the experiments have not been repeated, and were not made with that accuracy which enables us to judge of its relative value. We hope, to have the pleasure of giving to our readers some further experiments with Plaster hereafter. Various other manures have been tried; such as swamp mud, foul mud, dung, cotton seed, &c. We conversed with no one who had experimented with the first, but understood that it was but little used, it not having been generally found beneficial. Perhaps this has been owing to its having been taken from the swamp, and applied to the crop. All the experiments we have ever made with swamp mud, went to prove that it could not be advantageously used unless it had been exposed for some time to the action of the atmosphere, or was corrected by the admixture of lime. We would suggest to our friends of St. John's (especially the upper part, where the soil is so very light), whether a most excellent imitation of the swamp mud, which has been found of such immense benefit to the cotton crops of the Sea Islands, could not be made by adding to the mud taken from the swamps, a small quantity of lime or marl and of salt, the latter perhaps in the greatest proportion. We hope that some of the Planters will make some small experiments with a mixture